

I find that it not only helps me but I can draw a smile from the men. They are "game" and I feel sure they will give a splendid account of themselves. I have heard from British, French and American officers that this Division has the best trained and physical men in France. They say my regiment is the best in the Division. It may not be true (I think it is) but it makes me feel good to hear such expressions about my men.

After we had completed our inspection we returned to Houtkerque via the Lovie Chateau and the Proven road. The ride through the Chateau grounds, which are most beautiful, was a delightful sequence to the desolation and waste that I had just been through. At Houtkerque we had *tea*. There were four of the British Generals at *tea*, and a Belgian General Staff. At 5:45 p. m. I started back for camp in the General's auto.

Colonel Ferguson came into camp and may be with us most of the time now. After supper we went over to the Second Battalion Headquarters remaining until nearly dark (10 p. m.). I gave the Colonel my room and went in with the Adjutant.

*July 5, 1918, Friday.* No air raid last night and therefore I had a most comfortable night and sleep. There was considerable shelling and twice during the night there was a continuous barrage fire lasting from half an hour to an hour. I slept through most of this. Today the Colonel and I have been going over the training schedule of the Regiment and I believe he was pretty well satisfied with what has been accomplished.

At 11:15 a. m. I had an appointment with Major-General Kenyon and Colonel Close of the British Army (40th Division) to inspect the work my troops had been doing. Colonel Ferguson, the Adjutant and myself went over to the works ahead of time in order to examine some of the British wiring and trenches. A strong point was being constructed by the Australians. If it had not been for the Colonel being here so we could use his car, we would have had to walk or ride on very poor horses. We met General Kenyon and Colonel Close on the line and inspected the wiring for a distance of about two miles. The General seemed very much pleased with the work and it was apparently satisfactory. I decided to change somewhat the method of construction of the wiring so as to conform more with the American method. This we are now building. I also worked out a